

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method of improving a barrier effect on skin comprising applying an effective amount of  
~~Use of~~ an active ingredient that is obtained from chestnut meal, associated with any adapted cosmetic galenical form, such as an aqueous or alcoholic emulsion, a lotion, a cream with an aqueous or fatty base, or an ointment for improving the barrier effect on the skin.
2. (currently amended) The method ~~Use of the active ingredient that is obtained from chestnut meal according to claim 1, wherein it~~ the application makes possible an improvement of the synthesis of involucrin on the skin.
3. (currently amended) The method ~~Use of the active ingredient that is obtained from chestnut meal according to claim 1 or 2, wherein it~~ the application makes possible an improvement of the synthesis of the profilaggrin on the skin.
4. (currently amended) The method ~~Use of an active ingredient that is obtained from chestnut meal according to claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein it~~ the application promotes the synthesis of cadherin-E on the skin.

5. (currently amended) The method use of the active ingredient that is obtained from chestnut meal according to claim 1 any of the preceding claims, wherein it the application increases the synthesis of the ceramides on the a horny layer.

6. (currently amended) The method use of the active ingredient that is obtained from chestnut meal according to claim 1 any of the preceding claims, wherein it the application makes it possible to increase the expression of enzymes for synthesis of lipids such as the fatty acid synthase and serine palmitoyl transferase and the synthesis of epidermal lipids on the skin.

7. (currently amended) The method use of the active ingredient that is obtained from chestnut meal according to claim 1 any of the preceding claims, wherein it the application makes possible a reduction in the activity of the glycoproteins of the family of desmosomal cadherins so as to promote exfoliation.

8. (currently amended) The method use of the active ingredient that is obtained from the chestnut meal according to claim 1 any of the preceding claims, wherein it the application makes possible a reduction of the negligible water loss, in particular by increasing the activity of the chymotrypsin stratum corneum enzyme.

9. (currently amended) ~~Process A process~~ for obtaining the active ingredient that is used according to claim 1 ~~claims 1 to 8, wherein it comprises comprising~~ the ~~following stages steps of:~~

Solubilizing ~~Solubilization~~ of chestnut meal in water,

Performing enzymatic ~~Enzymatic~~ hydrolysis,  
Separating ~~Separation~~ of soluble and insoluble phases by at least one of decanting, filtering ~~or~~ and centrifuging, and

Concentrating ~~Concentration~~ of the active phase.

10. (original) Production process according to claim 9, wherein the solubilization is carried out with at least 100 g/l of chestnut meal.

11. (currently amended) Production process according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~, wherein the enzymatic hydrolysis is carried out in the presence of at least one carbohydrase, ~~preferably at a rate of at least 0.1%~~.

12. (currently amended) Active ingredient obtained according to the process of claim 9, ~~10 or 11 and used according to one of claims 1 to 8,~~ characterized by the following parameters:

- Level of dry material of between 10 and 300 g/l,
- pH of between 4.0 and 8.0

- Total sugar content of between 9 and 275 g/l,  
and
- Presence of three glucide fractions:
  - Polysaccharide fraction:  
rhamnogalacturonan
  - Oligosaccharide fraction with a high  
degree of polymerization and free uronic  
acids, and
  - A mono- and oligosaccharide fraction of a  
low degree of polymerization.

13. (currently amended) Active ingredient that is obtained according to the process of claim 9, ~~10 or 11,~~ characterized by the following parameters:

- Level of dry material of between 80 and 120 g/l,
- pH of between 5.0 and 6.0,
- Total sugar content of between 72 and 110 g/l.

14. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the cosmetic galenical form is one selected from the group consisting of an aqueous emulsion, an alcoholic emulsion, a lotion, a cream with an aqueous base, a cream with a fatty base, and an ointment

15. (new) The method according to claim 6, wherein the lipids consist of at least one selected from the group consisting of the fatty acid synthase, serine palmitoyl

transferase, and the synthesis of epidermal lipids on the skin.

16. (new) The method according to claim 8, wherein ~~it~~ the application reduces the negligible water loss by increasing the activity of the chymotrypsin stratum corneum enzyme.

17. (new) Production process according to claim 11, wherein the enzymatic hydrolysis is carried out in the presence of the at least one carbohydrazine at a rate of at least 0.1%.